

STATE OF MICHIGAN



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

**FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY**

235 S GRAND AVE, PO BOX 30037, LANSING MI 48909

DOUGLAS E. HOWARD, Director

Dear Inquirer:

Thank you for your recent inquiry about Michigan's mandatory drug testing policy. We are exploring relatively uncharted territory, as Michigan is the first state to require drug testing similar to that which recipients encounter in their employment search. It is our hope that this policy will help identify and strengthen Michigan families who are struggling with substance abuse.

The drug testing program began October 1, 1999 in three pilot sites with two additional pilot sites to be added in February 2000. These sites were selected based on local community support, prevalence of employer testing, treatment capacity, diversity of demographics and geographic balance.

We plan to test virtually all applicants for the Family Independence Program (previously called Aid to Families with Dependent Children or AFDC) in the pilot sites for use of marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines, and phencyclidine (PCP). The testing medium is a urine sample, with all positive tests verified. The test will be mandatory. An application for assistance will be denied if the applicant refuses to be tested. Assessment and treatment will be provided to all applicants who test positive.

Pilots drug testing policies and procedures will be monitored and adjustments made, as necessary. The information received from the pilot sites will be used to guide our statewide implementation in 2003.

Enclosed you will find a packet which provides additional information on the process. I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Thank you again for your interest in this innovative program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Douglas E. Howard'.

Douglas E. Howard